

Terwilliger Fire Key Messages

Location, Size and Cause:

The Terwilliger Fire was initially reported at 3:21 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 19, 2018.

The Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry promptly responded with firefighting resources including hand crews, engines and aircraft. Exceptionally dry conditions led to the fire's quick growth and may continue to intensify the fire.

As of Aug. 21, 2018, the fire is approximately 125 acres and is burning actively on both the west and east side of Cougar Reservoir about four miles south of Highway 126 on Aufderheide Scenic Highway (Forest Service Road 19). The fire is in the area of Terwilliger Hot Springs and across Cougar Reservoir in the Three Sisters Wilderness.

We will continue to provide estimates of the fire size. Much more accurate information on size will be available following an infrared (IR) flight that is planned. Due to various factors, an IR has not occurred.

Visitors are advised to avoid the area. A closure order is forthcoming and includes roads, trails, campgrounds and other recreation sites in the area.

The fire started near the trail to Terwilliger Hot Springs. The cause of the fire is under investigation. There was no recorded lightning in the area.

The fire is located near the site of the December 2017 landslide, which closed the road for nearly seven months as crews worked to removed rocks and debris. The road reopened on July 27, 2018.

The fire is also burning near the 2017 Rebel Fire, part of the Horse Creek Complex, which resulted in closures of Road 19 and numerous recreation sites.

Current Conditions

Current weather and extremely dry fuels are conducive to new ignitions and rapid spread of any fires that develop.

Public Use Restrictions: Campfires are banned across the forest, except in designated campgrounds. Use of charcoal briquettes is prohibited, but camp stoves that run on propane or liquid fuels and have an on/off switch are acceptable. [Forest Order 06-18-00-18-14](#)
[Public Use Restrictions](#)

Smoke from this fire may be visible from the communities of McKenzie Bridge, Rainbow and portions of Highway 126; conditions are expected to worsen in the evenings. Widespread smoke and haze are across Northwest Oregon from multiple fires burning in California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. Residents and visitors have many resources to check air quality, see online resources below.

There are currently no evacuation orders. The Lane County Sheriff's Office initiates evacuations. Community members can sign up for the Lane County ALERT ME! Community Emergency Notification System at <http://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?regionid=1087>.

Online Resources:

- Willamette National Forest Fire Information: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/willamette/fire>
- InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6160/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/willamettenf>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/willametteNF>
- 2017 Burn Severity Maps: <http://go.usa.gov/xQ9H8>

Air Quality:

- <http://www.lrapa.org/216/Todays-Current-Air-Quality>
- <https://oraqi.deq.state.or.us/home/map>
- <http://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/>
- <https://airnow.gov/>